

FISHING IN NONTIDAL WATERS – Put-and-Take Trout Fishing

What is being considered?

The Department is considering adding Bynum Pond (Harford County) and Warfield Park Pond (Howard County) to the list of Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Areas and extending the Patapsco River Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Area (Baltimore and Howard County) upstream to Ilchester Road. The Department is also considering the removal of Forest Hill/Friends Park Pond (Harford County), Pine Lake (Montgomery County), Jones Falls below Lake Roland (Baltimore County), and Beaver Run (Carroll County) from the list of Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Areas.

Why is this change necessary?

These additions are necessary because Bynum Pond provides better conditions for fishing and would replace Forest Hill/Friends Park Pond. Warfield Park Pond is approximately three acres and offers great access, a fishing pier, and is a Howard County Youth Fishing Program site. Also, extending the Patapsco River Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Area upstream, approximately 0.61 miles on public property, will provide good stocking/angler access from the previous site of Bloede Dam to Ilchester Road.

These deletions are necessary because Forest Hill/Friends Park Pond is becoming overtaken by emergent vegetation and the Department has received complaints from anglers that the pond is difficult to fish. Pine Lake has poor water quality and angler usage was low. During the pandemic, and since then, Pine Lake has not been stocked with trout. No anglers have complained or inquired about restarting Put and Take trout fishing there, so there does not seem to be an angler constituency for it. Jones Falls below Lake Roland has poor/difficult access for stocking; available water is limited in the area and has not been stocked since the pandemic as well. Beaver Run is entirely on private property, primarily within the Beaver Run Fish and Game Club property, with little public participation. The stream is very shallow, provides limited holding habitat for trout, and has not been stocked for several years.

Who will this affect?

This action will affect nontidal trout anglers that fish Put and Take Trout Fishing Areas.

When will this be effective?

The Department projects that this change could be effective in the winter of 2023-2024. However, the exact date cannot be determined. The Department will follow our normal proposal procedures if this concept moves forward.

Has this change been discussed with stakeholders?

Howard County Parks management supports Put-and-Take trout fishing at Warfield Park Pond. The remainder of the changes have not previously been discussed outside the agency.